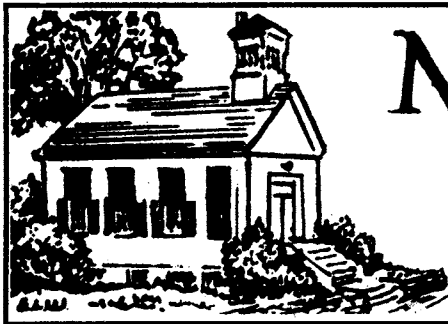




MONTEREY NEWS

March 2014
VOLUME XLIV · Number 3



The Town

by Susan Gallant

Regional School District

David Hastings, superintendent of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD), and Bruce Turner SBRSD's business manager, met with the Select Board to review, in general, the school budget for the coming year and to discuss, specifically, how and where Monterey fits into the district's plans going forward.

Although both gentlemen proudly announced plans to cut \$150,000 from the budget, Scott Jenssen was not impressed, considering the steadily decreasing student population in recent years. Muriel Lazzarini suggested that consolidating classroom space could significantly lower operating expenses and leasing out the unused areas to local organizations would bring in much-needed revenue. Unfortunately, the logistical problems of keeping students separated from outside entities make such a plan unfeasible. Mr. Hastings did, however, say that with more and more technology being incorporated in the classroom, rooms that currently house computer labs may become unnecessary. Of note is that the transportation budget has been increasing at a faster rate than the capital budget.

As for Monterey, Mr. Hastings reported that both New Marlborough and Sheffield are adamantly against putting money into the Monterey School because the cost per student is just too high. However, most of the operating costs go to the salaries for one teacher and an aide and total about \$125,000 a year. What's more, if the school were to close, that teacher and aide would not be dismissed but would be reassigned to other locations within the district.

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Karl Finger (l) and Pete Seeger, 1997. Seeger died on January 27 at the age of 94. Karl's tribute to him appears on p. 22. (Photo courtesy Karl Finger)

Scott also pointed out that Monterey, as a town, has supported and continues to support the district financially, so it would seem that asking the surrounding towns to return the favor by helping fund and maintain a Monterey community school is not out of line. Wayne Burkhart pointed out that closing a community school has a far-reaching impact on a community. It's not as simple as closing the doors and walking away. Such a decision certainly doesn't make the district any stronger. The question is, how to bridge this disconnect? Ultimately, it's in the hands of the school committee, which continues to work to solve the problem.

Fortunately, the meeting ended on a more upbeat note. As it turns out, Matthew Malone, Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, attended a one-room schoolhouse when he was a boy and was thrilled and surprised to learn that there are still functioning one-room schoolhouses in the state. Secretary Malone is planning on making a visit to our own Monterey School in the coming months, which might just be an opportunity to discuss with the Secretary some of the issues Monterey is dealing with in keeping our one-room schoolhouse up and running.

Blue Hill Pole Hearing

At 9 a.m. on February 3, the Select Board opened the Joint Pole Hearing for poles and fixtures to be erected on Blue Hill Road by National Grid and Verizon. A representative from National Grid, along with that company's arborist, attended the meeting, as well as residents of the road who were concerned about the number of trees slated to be removed in the name of improved service. Conspicuous by its absence was representation from Verizon, despite the Board's request for its presence at the meeting.

Richard Pargament, who lives on Blue Hill but was unable to attend the meeting, had a letter read in which he expressed his concern about the large number of giant oak trees that have been marked for removal, adding that the oaks provide shade from the heat of the day and homes to wild life. Jan Ramsay, National Grid's arborist, recently inspected the trees in question and reported that the largest oaks have considerable decay, evident by their diminished crown size, which is only about 40 percent of that of a healthy tree. Only those that are in decay will be cut down, along with a cherry and an ash, both of which are completely dead. The younger trees will be left alone. To make sure only those trees will be felled, Jan Ramsay, Highway Department director Maynard Forbes, and tree warden Winston Wilson

will be surveying the road, marking only the trees to be removed.

With these modifications well documented, the Select Board unanimously approved the go-ahead for the new plan.

Kaput Compactor?

At the beginning of February, the nonfunctioning paper compactor at the transfer station had been repaired. By February 3, it had broken again. The following week, an electrician was called in to repair the machinery. That repair lasted until Saturday, February 8, when the compactor once again broke down. The town owns the compactor, which means that if it can't be repaired, it will have to be replaced, which will be an unexpected and significant expense.

In the meantime, an additional Dumpster at the transfer station is available for paper recyclables.

Wired West Update

Monica Webb, chair of Wired West's executive committee, joined a Select Board meeting in February to report on efforts made to bring fiber-optic networking to the last mile—rural areas such as ours. As always, the greatest obstacle to progress is a lack of funds. The state has allocated \$50 million toward providing last-mile broadband to 45 underserved towns. Other possible sources of funding

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Monterey hockey is enjoying a winning season with over 15 games from mid-December through early March. Over 25 players participated in the informal, adult, soft puck games which have been occurring at the Monterey rink for nearly 30 years. This year's unofficial scoring leader with most goals was Monterey's own Peter Poirier (front row, 3rd from rt.). Volunteers are needed to help dismantle the rink on Saturday, April 5, at 10 a.m.

being considered are a low-interest loan program offered by the USDA, the Connect America Fund that is specifically for rural projects, and contributions from the towns themselves. The goal would be to structure such funding to have little impact on property taxes.

In response, Muriel Lazzarini stressed that the town is doing its best to streamline the budget, making it a very tight year financially, adding that when this budget request goes before a town meeting, the presentation needs to provide detailed

explanations to ease the minds of Monterey's residents.

Give It a Run

It's no secret that Muriel Lazzarini, currently chair of Monterey's Select Board, has decided not to run for another term. Over the years, Muriel has served Monterey well, and her tireless work ethic and fair-minded, equitable approach to problems large and small will be sorely missed.

Hers will indeed be tough shoes to fill, but if any of Monterey's citizenry

believe they are up for the challenge they are encouraged to consider running for a seat on the Select Board. Although all are welcome to run, it's important to remember that such a position is one of service and not of glory that often yields little reward and demands considerable time and hard work.

Those who are still undaunted should contact both Wayne Burkhart, chair of the Democratic Party in Monterey, and Mark Makuc, Monterey's Republican chair, to find out when their respective parties are

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Music Nights Return to Monterey General Store

The Monterey General Store is excited to announce The Monterey Music series. These intimate music gatherings will take place at the store every other Friday evening, and the performances will begin at 8 p.m. A small dinner menu will be offered from 6:30 on, as well as a selection of sweets, and refreshments.

The series will kick off on Friday, March 7, with Robert Oakes and Kate Smith, of Tyringham. Learn more at www.oakesandsmith.net.

Friday, March 21, will feature the music of HuDost (www.hudost.com).

We hope to see you all there!

—Scott Cole

(Town, cont. from p. 3)

meeting, as well as Emily Johnson, Monterey's town clerk, for additional information on getting your name on the ballot.

Accountant's New Office Hours

With the approval of the Select Board, town accountant Brendan Fletcher has changed his office hours to Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to noon. The change was necessary so that Brendan can complete his degree. ☺

Projects Planning Continues

On the evening of February 25, a smaller, more subdued (compared to the previous gathering) group of Montereyans convened at town hall to continue discussions on the various projects currently in the works for the library, the community center, and the Monterey School.

A suggestion brought up at the last meeting involved bringing in the Berkshire Regional Planning Committee (BRPC) as a neutral third party to act as a facilitator. Wendy Germain, who has been following the work the BRPC has been doing in Richmond, commented that the organization has the benefit of a wide-range perspective as well as knowledge and access to resources that many of us are unaware of. She's been impressed with what they've done in Richmond. The services BRPC provides come at a cost, and with money being tight this year, beginning the planning process within the rank and file might be a more prudent first step.

One Monterey resident who has had considerable experience with the issues at hand is Rob Hoogs, who is originally from Great Barrington but has lived in Monterey for more than eleven years. He chaired the Planning Board in Great Barrington and is currently president of the Bidwell House Museum. Robert spoke of the issues and the approaches he would take.

Monterey, he said, is a small town that is not looking to change the characteristics that have drawn people to it. Because of that, there is no need for a master plan. What makes Monterey Monterey are its cultural offerings, recreational activities, and open spaces. With that in mind, the needs of each of the three projects under discussion should be determined. Once those needs are defined, then the opportunities that are available to meet those needs must be identified, with the possibility of consolidating resources and creating shared-use spaces.

Rob spoke concisely and eloquently, capturing the spirit and essence of Monterey. He would indeed make an ideal leader to head this project. Unfortunately his other responsibilities leave him with little free time, though he did promise to participate.

A leader for this project does need to be named, as Muriel Lazzarini stressed throughout the course of the meeting. A few people have apparently been meeting already and the name "Monterey 2020" has been suggested.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 22, at 10 a.m. to give Monterey's weekend residents the opportunity to join in.

—Susan Gallant



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Relative Beauty
Tim Heffernan PHOTOGRAPHY
Susan Terri Taff WATERCOLOR
opening reception: sat., march 22, 6-7:30pm
march 21 - april 28

Democratic Caucus March 8

The Monterey Democratic Party will meet in Caucus on Saturday, March 8, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. in the basement meeting room of the Monterey UCC church for the purpose of nominating candidates for elected town offices. Persons interested in nomination may contact Wayne Burkhart (wdburkharts@gmail.com).

Town election day is Tuesday, May 6, 2014. The following positions are up for election:

Board of Appeals, 5 years
Board of Assessors, 3 years
Board of Health, 3 years
Cemetery Comm., 3 years
Finance Comm., 3 years
Library Trustee, 3 years
Library Trustee, 3 years
Library Trustees, 1 year
Library Trustees, 1 year
Moderator, 1 year
Park Comm., 3 years
Park Comm., 1 year
Planning Board, 5 years
Planning Board, 5 years
Select Board, 3 years
Tree Warden, 1 year



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Ceramic Artist Josephine Freedman at March 19 Community Dinner

On a nasty weather night, in the middle of vacation week, we were thrilled to have an overflow crowd for Dr. Lisa Nelson at the February potluck. Her presentation on the myths of aging was fascinating, up-to-the minute informative, and perfect for our audience. We are extremely grateful to her for, first of all, making it to Monterey, then coping beautifully with our limited projector capability, and making a great presentation. Hope to have her back next year.

For the March potluck, Josephine Alessi Freedman, a regular at our potlucks, with a more than forty year passion for working with clay, will present a slide show and talk about her work as a ceramic artist. On display at the supper will be some samples of the work she created while attending workshops and craft schools in Italy, North Carolina, New York State, and Massachusetts. Included in the slide show will be photos of the tiles and ceramic work she incorporated into the home she and her husband, Barry, built in Sandisfield.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 19, in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Barbara Dahlman & Kyle Pierce

Dog Licensing & Rabies Vaccine Clinic March 8

The 2014 Dog Licensing & Rabies Vaccine Clinic will be held at the Monterey Fire Station on Saturday, March 8, from 9 a.m. until noon.

The charge for the rabies vaccine shot is \$12.00. The dog license fees are \$4.00 for neutered/spayed (please bring certificate) and \$10.00 for unspayed/unneutered. Please bring previous rabies vaccination certificate (not tag).

Dogs must be on leashes and cats in carriers.

All dogs must be licensed by March 31, 2014, or owners will be issued a \$25.00 late fee.

—Emily Johnson,
Monterey Town Clerk

Republican Comm. Meeting Mar. 6, Caucus Mar. 15

The Monterey Republican Town Committee will be meeting on Thursday, March 6, at 4 p.m. in the church basement to discuss the upcoming local elections. Any interested candidates are welcome to write a letter of intent and get it to Mark Makuc, PO Box 711, Monterey, MA 01245 by March 6. The Republicans of Monterey will caucus Saturday, March 15, at 1 p.m. in the church basement to nominate a slate of candidates for the local elections.

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Town Assets: The Monterey School

If you ask people what makes for a vital town, what is the most important asset for a town, most would probably respond, “the people.” I certainly think so. But for this to be actively true, there must be ways for townspeople to interact, to cooperate, to have conversations, to help each other make things happen. Wendy and I have only been here five years, but our experience of Monterey already shows us that this town is favored with a variety of types of places for folks to gather.

There’s the town beach, the library, the basketball court, baseball field, the firehouse, the pavilion behind the firehouse for summer gatherings and winter skating. There’s the Roadside and the Harvest Barn at Gould Farm, the transfer station, the General Store, the church’s spaces, the schoolhouse, the post office. Each of these assets is suitable for certain kinds of gatherings.

But these places didn’t just all happen at once. They happened over time, probably through a wide variety of private and public actions, single individuals with initiative and groups with agendas. I’d be very surprised to hear that there weren’t serious disagreements about lots of them. “Why do we need a town beach anyway?” etc.

The town is now faced with two perplexing questions over physical assets—the schoolhouse and the Community Center. I would like to add a perspective about the schoolhouse situation, and next month about the Community Center.

I spent much of my life living in a small town in Vermont, smaller than Monterey. I raised two sons there. The town felt strongly about its school. For decades it had been a K-8 school, but by the time my sons were in the early grades it was reconfigured to a K-6, with typically six to ten children in each grade, accommodated with some multi-grade classes. When my older son entered kindergarten he also entered a larger society. As did my wife and I. Jesse met other children his age and older, and we met other parents. This cadre of parents, and families, which grew when our second son entered school four years later, sustained us through thick and thin all the way through our boys’ graduations from different high schools.

As parents we were brought together waiting outside during those first weeks of kindergarten, exchanging names and stories. Before long we were meeting in the hallway outside the classroom, and then we found out we were more than welcome to come in during the last minutes of the day. (In winter, this meant helping to get the kids dressed to go home!) Over the years we became active together with mutual concerns—classroom and PTA

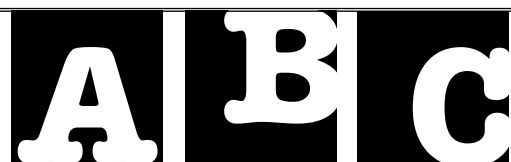
activities, filling in with afterschool care and playtime, getting together as families for outings, worrying over each others’ kids when they weren’t well, or had accidents or family issues. And as our children got older, our involvement in other town affairs also grew, and there we were with these other parents we had gotten to know well helping with the other things that happened regularly in town.

During my children’s elementary years I returned to school and earned a graduate degree in education that led to my teaching elementary school for eleven years in Springfield, Vermont. I had an unusual career for those eleven years, teaching every grade from kindergarten to fifth grade multiple times (most of my years were with multiage classrooms, and six different classroom assignments within our district). What I had experienced as a parent, building community with other parents, in my small hometown, I now saw as a huge asset as a classroom teacher. We tend to think narrowly of “parental involvement” in schools as the parents involved in the educational experience of their children. But that leaves out the tremendous benefit of parents’ involvement with each other and with the entire school community and with their town. In the community of schools, the biggest asset is indeed the people, all the people.

As Monterey considers options for our small school, I hope people can be mindful of the important role that even a small, single-grade school can play in the functioning of the whole town, of the community of parents and children having a sense of place and belonging, in the town and with each other.

This role is irreplaceable and would be easily lost with long bus rides. It would be a sad day if the town decides it no longer wishes to provide a place for the youngest of the children to begin their school years. Once lost, it is unlikely to ever be reclaimed.

—Stephen Moore



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March at the Knox Gallery

Pauline Nault: Mere Color Moves continues at the Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, through March 15. Berkshire native and Monterey resident Nault began painting for personal pleasure and challenge fifteen years ago and finds self-realization and discovery through making art. She works in a variety of media and finds interest in both representational and abstract subject matter.

Relative Beauty: Susan Terni Taff and Tim Heffernan opens on March 21, with a reception from 6–7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 22. Yes, 6:00 p.m. is correct; the library will open an hour early that evening to accommodate this event. The exhibit will be on display through April 26.

Widely published and largely self-taught photographer Tim Heffernan reports being from a long line of shutterbugs. His first camera—in third grade—was a Kodak Instamatic, a gift from his grandparents. Today he shoots with a variety of professional and “toy” cameras, utilizing both old and new technology—film and digital, darkroom and computer, in order to achieve an atmosphere of timelessness and otherworldliness.

Heffernan earned his BA at Bard College, Simons Rock, and has taught digital photography at IS183 School of Arts, in Stockbridge. He lives in Craryville, New York.

In Susan Terni Taff’s lifelong arts study she has enjoyed working from the human figure in a variety of media, discovering her passion for watercolor only



Rick Taff

Susan Terni Taff

three years ago. A workshop instructor at Omega Institute suggested that Taff use photos from Victoria’s Secret catalogue when a live model was not available. As she painted, Taff noticed that the VS models’ sharp angles, straight lines, and impossible thinness did not inspire her as had the “curves, rolls, and soft bellies” she studied in life drawing sessions. So, she transformed the VS models! She added “pounds, muffin tops, bigger hips, thighs, bottoms. In this way, they became more than ‘clothes hangers.’” Her striking paintings are of strong, beautiful, real women.

Taff, who lives with her husband, Rick, and exuberant golden retriever in Glastonbury, Connecticut, is the sister of Monterey resident Esther Heffernan. Tim Heffernan is Taff’s nephew and John and



Tim Heffernan

Tim Heffernan

Esther Heffernan’s son. These artists further report that this two-person exhibition is not their first artistic collaboration—they have enjoyed drawing together and offering mutual inspiration and encouragement since Tim’s childhood.

Summer Community Exhibit

We hope that Tim Heffernan’s work in *Relative Beauty* inspires all friends and artists to get their cameras tuned up for our community photography exhibit this summer. We will ask each artist to submit one framed, ready-to-hang photograph that has been taken in Monterey during the preceding twelve months. Submissions will be due just after July 4, and the exhibit will run through July and most of August. We look forward to lots of interesting, creative, and varied pieces.

All exhibits can be viewed during Library hours: Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 413-528-3795; Facebook.com/Knox_Gallery; @Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

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Taxpayers' Corner

Making Your Voices Heard

Spring will soon be here in Monterey (well, maybe not soon enough for many of us), and hopefully in time for this year's May 3rd Annual Town Meeting. Massachusetts towns like ours have a unique form of direct democracy (as opposed to representative democracy), in which voters have the opportunity to determine municipal budgetary and non-budgetary warrant articles (such as zoning regulations) that affect the quality of our lives; as voters, we get to decide for ourselves the level of services we want from town government and how much it will cost us in the form of property taxes.

All municipal appropriations are subject to voter approval and can be modified on the floor by motion, or even rejected. (One of the only appropriations the town must pay is the school district assessment, but voters can still turn this appropriation down; if the school budget passes in the other four district towns, Monterey will be assessed in any case.)

What this means is that voters have an awesome right, and with it an awesome responsibility. The future of the town is always in their hands; all they have to do is raise them at Town Meeting.

There are currently about 1,000 full-time residents in Monterey and 700

registered voters. Town Meeting attendance varies, but on average there are more than 100 voters, and these folks decide everything, together, usually in about three hours.

Participating in our direct-democracy Town Meeting sounds easy:

1. Register to vote
2. Show up at town meeting
3. Raise your hand to speak
4. Speak
5. Raise your voice/hand to vote

In practice, however, making your voice heard is complicated. Most of us lead busy lives, and it takes a lot of time and effort to become educated on how town government works and what all those warrant articles mean. For those who manage this task, the next hurdle is attending Town Meeting.

For the uninitiated, Town Meeting can be intimidating. It's a formal municipal function run by the Moderator and abides by rules. Many people don't know the rules. The Moderator will always help.

But how many among us are willing to risk an embarrassing moment at a large public venue where, unless you have attended many meetings, you'll be standing alone in a sea of strangers staring at you?

Public speaking is often listed as our number one fear. Here's a quote from *Psychology Today*: "Surveys about our fears commonly show fear of public speaking at

the top of the list. Our fear of standing up in front of a group and talking is so great that we fear it more than death."

How's that for encouragement?

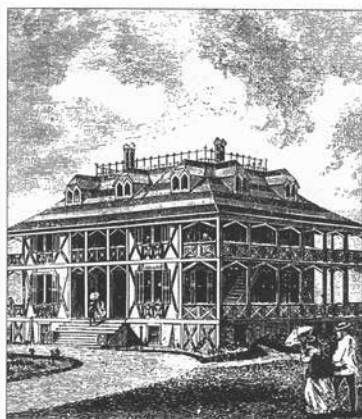
For those of us who can master our fear of public speaking, we must face the task of being able to say what we believe in front of 100 or more people, some, or even many, who may disagree with us. Can we say it persuasively enough? Do we have our facts straight? Are we willing to take a stand? Be in the minority?

Voting isn't any easier. Town Meeting votes are usually taken openly, by voice—if the vote is close, then by raising your hand yea or nay. Those people sitting next to you? They see your hand go up. The folks across the aisle? They do, too. Those standing at the back of the Firehouse? They see *everyone's* hands.

There is a solution to this situation, especially when it comes to sensitive warrant articles. Anyone can call for a secret ballot so that voters can vote in privacy. But even this we cannot rely on too often, or Town Meeting would take twelve hours.

The reality is, we live in a small town among friends and neighbors—many of whom work for the town—but for the three hours of Town Meeting, we are more than just friends and neighbors and employees. We are responsible for expending over \$3,500,000 annually to run a municipality—and then paying for it through property taxes.

This makes Town Meeting fraught with vulnerabilities. "If I vote against



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Article X, which I do not favor, will someone else vote against Article Y, which I do favor?" "What will happen to me if I vote against [fill-in-the-blank]." "How can I face Mr./Ms. [fill-in-the-blank] if I vote against [fill-in-the-blank]?" And so on.

To vote responsibly or honestly or out of self-interest—even to vote dishonestly out of fear—these are all very real reasons to raise your hand. Or not. Or not bother to show up at Town Meeting.

And therein lies the rub. For many people, Town Meeting is overwhelming. They stay home.

All this can be very discouraging. We rely on our elected officials to present a responsible budget, but voters must still make their own decisions, publicly and on the spot, if they are to have the final say.

If we're not willing to speak our minds, or to oppose an article or move to amend it, budgets are rubber-stamped. It's easy to support a warrant article, anxiety-ridden to oppose one. This is human nature. But if this happens year after year, we're in jeopardy of developing a herd mentality, the entire process of town governance can become subject to fear and apathy, and eventually we may go broke.

You can't say yes to everything indefinitely.

We don't want to find ourselves in a place like that. We must encourage each other to be active, to be willing to share and to listen, to think of others as well as ourselves, to consider the common welfare and the greater good. We all bear this responsibility together, not only on our own behalf, but on behalf of the second-home owner (who cannot vote), the widow on a fixed income, the young family, the two-earner household, and our most vulnerable residents who live below

the poverty line—in short, on behalf of all taxpayers.

Another unassailable reality is that, at bottom, Town Meeting is a numbers game. All appropriations made at Town Meeting are decided, finally, on a tally of those who are present, for and against. If you're not present at Town Meeting, you're not in the game. You forfeit your right to determine what services the town will provide, and at what cost.

If you attend Town Meeting, you may win some and you may lose some, you may find yourself surprised or disappointed; but, as with everything in life, 99% of it is showing up and participating.

I want to end this article with a quote from the economist Milton Friedman: "I do not believe that the solution to our problem is simply to elect the right people. The important thing is to establish a political climate of opinion which will make it politically profitable for the wrong people to do the right thing. Unless it is politically profitable for the wrong people to do the right thing, the right people will not do the right thing either, or if they try, they will shortly be out of office."

Dr. Friedman was referring to politics on a national level—and somewhat cynically—but local politics is a microcosm of the national scene and no less subject to the pitfalls of democracy in general. Leaders come and go. Some are good. Some are bad. But we cannot rely on them to speak for us. We must speak for ourselves.

What is the "political climate of opinion" in a small town like Monterey? It is you. All of you, talking together, fulfilling your civic duty however you can, but, most importantly, making your voices heard at Town Meeting.

—Jonathan Sylbert

Come Garden With Us in the Community Garden

The Monterey Community Garden has open spaces for the 2014 gardening season, and we invite you to join! If you are interested in growing food and flowers (on your own generous 8 ft. x 16 ft. plot) and meeting other Monterey gardeners at the same time, please go to the website www.ccmonterey.org or call Ruth Green, Garden Coordinator, at 528-5908 for more information. Registration for new gardeners will stay open until the end of May—we assign open plots on a first-come, first-served basis. So if you have a yen to garden with us, please download a registration form from the website and send it to the Monterey Community Garden, c/o Peter Heller, PO Box 748, Monterey, MA 01245 as soon as possible. Happy gardening!

—Ruth Green



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Bidwell House Museum Offers High School Internships

Monterey's own colonial history museum is offering high school students with an interest in history, particularly local Berkshire colonial history, the opportunity to become a Young History Scholar Intern this summer.

The Bidwell House Museum is a 1750s New England heritage site providing through its land, house, and collection a personal encounter with frontier life in early America. The museum includes the fully furnished colonial homestead, several outbuildings, and 192 acres of grounds with gardens, stone walls, foundations, and hiking trails.

High school interns spend two weeks at the museum: in week one the intern learns about colonial Berkshire history, the Bidwell family, the house, the property and the collection, and how docents give tours; in week two each intern chooses a research topic and begins to give tours of the museum as a junior docent.

Recent summer interns have come from the following towns and school districts: Lanesborough, Lenox, New Marlborough, Monterey, Sandisfield, South Lee, Tyringham, Fort Mill, SC, Albany Academy, Convent of the Sacred Heart, NY, Dana Hall School, Great Barrington Waldorf High School, Houghton Academy, Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, Millennium High School, NY, Monument Mountain High School, and Mt. Everett Regional High School.

Thanks in part to a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council and the Tyringham Hop Brook Club, as well as private sponsors and friends of the museum, each high school intern receives a \$200 stipend for the two-week internship. The museum is also seeking a college student for an eight-week internship.

The internship application can be found on the museum's website, www.bidwellhousemuseum.org. Deadline for applications is April 30, and applicants will be invited for an interview. Please call or email Barbara Palmer, Executive Director of the museum, with any questions: bidwellhouse@gmail.com, 413-528-6888.

Monterey Community Center News

Construction work was put on hold through the month of February due to the prolonged cold—not the best conditions for pouring concrete! The crew from Kronenberger & Sons will start up again as early in March as the weather will permit. In the meantime we are finalizing drawings and specifications with both our structural engineer, Jim Grant, and our architect, Steve McAlister, for the next phase of the construction.

During the winter, the committee has been working on the application for a matching funds grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council Capital Facilities Fund. The application is just about finished and should be submitted in the first days of March. We'll be keeping our fingers crossed.

As always, we welcome your input and your donations (fully tax-deductible), which you can make online at our website, www.ccmonterey.org. Look there for photos of the construction work as it goes forward and for the latest news. Or if you'd rather, write us at PO Box 302, Monterey.

Thanks!

—Joe Baker for FWMH



Monterey Author on NY Times Best-Seller List

Monterey has its own *New York Times Book Review* best-selling author, Beth Feeman, aka, B.B. Haywood. Beth has published as co-author her fifth mystery book, *Town in a Strawberry Swirl*. On Sunday, February 23, the book reached number 20 on the mass-market fiction best-seller list. The cozy mystery is published by Berkeley Prime Crime and is available online and in bookstores, both as print and as e-book.

Stop by the Monterey General Store, where you can congratulate Beth while she's getting your coffee and showing you her vintage aprons or recently spun wool. We'll have a bigger celebration of this wonderful achievement in strawberry season.

—Pat Salomon



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McLaughlin-Wilson, Other Berkshire Scholarships Applications Due April 1

Twenty-four scholarship funds in Berkshire County managed by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (BTCF) are accepting applications by April 1. Guidelines and application information are available online at www.berkshiretaconic.org/SearchScholarships. The funds accepting applications are:

Affordable Care Act Information Session March 7

Representative Smitty Pignatelli along with Healthcare for All will host a training session for constituents and community-based organizations on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on Friday, March 7, 2014, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Lenox Town Hall. This event will center on what changes in Massachusetts's health insurance due to the ACA mean for individuals and families and their healthcare. Kate Bicego, Consumer Assistance Program Manager for Health Care For All, will be on hand to answer questions regarding how this act impacts the health insurance marketplace in Massachusetts and how constituents can find assistance paying for health insurance.



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McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Fund: Students who have lived in Monterey for the last two years of high school are eligible for scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500, which may include awards over multiple years. Merit is the primary criterion.

Charles and Elinore Agar Scholarship: Students eligible for this \$500 scholarship are graduating seniors of Monument Mountain Regional High School who are entering their first year of a two- or four-year college or university with a particular interest in science, engineering, history, or creative writing.

Nicholas Boraski Family Scholarship Fund: \$10,000 renewable scholarship over four years (\$2,500 per year) is available to high school seniors who are residents of Berkshire County, graduating from a public high school, and planning to attend a two- or four-year college.

Caligari Family Scholarship: \$1,000 scholarship available to graduating seniors from Monument Mountain Regional High School who are entering their first year of a two- or four-year college or university with a goal of pursuing a career in an art or design-related field.

Honorable James P. Dohoney Scholarship Fund: Graduating seniors from Monument Mountain Regional High School, Mount Everett Regional High School, Lenox Memorial High School or Lee High School, who are enrolled in a two- or four-year college program, are eligible for these \$1,000 scholarships. Criteria are significance of the scholarship to the student, demonstration of motivation to succeed in pursuing a two- or four-year college degree, financial need and academic potential.

The Jamie Fund: \$1,000 scholarships available to graduating high school seniors who have been residents of Berkshire County for at least two years and will attend an accredited college, university, vocational-technical or professional institute in the United States to study music or the vocational arts (automotive/mechanical/electrical technology or any of the trades).

Guido Masiero Scholarship Fund: \$1,000 scholarship available to graduating seniors at Monument Mountain Regional High School and Manchester Essex Re-

gional High School (Manchester, MA) who are entering their first year of a two- or four-year college or university to pursue studies in physical education, health and wellness, or business studies.

Monroe England/Scott Scholarship Fund: \$2,000 scholarship for graduating seniors of public high schools in Berkshire County who are scholar athletes and planning to attend a two- or four-year college or university.

William J. Newton Scholarship Fund: \$1,000 scholarship available to residents of Berkshire County who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a two-year program at a community college or a technology curriculum in a community college, technical, vocational, or trade school.

The New World Fund Scholarship: \$1,000 scholarship available to newly arrived immigrants who are studying toward a degree at Berkshire Community College.

Rhoda Rubin Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund: \$1,000 scholarship for residents of Berkshire County who are pursuing a degree of any kind in nursing at Berkshire Community College (BCC).

Esther Samuels and Mabel Cornman Educational Scholarship Fund: \$1,000 scholarship for a graduating senior of Lenox Memorial High School who is entering their first year of a two-year or four-year nationally accredited college or university. This may include vocational schools, trade schools or apprenticeships.

William Stanley Scholarship Fund: \$12,000 scholarship (\$3,000 per year for up to four years) is available to a Berkshire County resident, based on academic achievement and financial need, who is planning to attend a two- or four-year college.

Women's Club of the Berkshires Scholarship Fund: \$1,000 scholarship for female students who are residents of Berkshire County and are going to pursue a career that will benefit girls and women in Berkshire County.

The majority of BTCF's scholarships accept one Common Application with a few exceptions where noted. Applications and guidelines for all scholarships are available online at www.berkshiretaconic.org/SearchScholarships. Please note the new deadline of April 1.

Who's Who in Monterey

Dick Tryon at 90

Monterey native son Dick Tryon turned 90 years old on February 22. Born in 1924, Dick was raised in the house behind the church on Tyringham Road, which his great-great-grandfather built in 1850 and which now belongs to the Allentucks. He attended the Monterey School through eighth grade, and then went to Great Barrington for junior high and high school. Upon graduating, he enlisted in the Navy and served during the Second World War.

He was stationed in both the Atlantic and the Pacific during the war, away from 1942–1946 as a quartermaster on an LST, a Landing Ship, Tank. As such, he never saw combat. Nevertheless, as is typical of his generation, he doesn't talk about the war much—though apparently he's quite a storyteller at the Monterey Coffee Club, which he organized in 2002 and has attended daily since then, and which owes its continued vitality to him.

Barbara, his wife of 65 years, says this is the rumor she hears, at least—that at the Coffee Club Dick regales the group with stories. Fran Amidon, a longtime friend and regular at the Coffee Club, confirmed this in a post on Facebook's Lake Garfield "wall," writing on Saturday, the 22nd, "Happy 90th Birthday to Dick Tryon. He was born and brought up here in Monterey, and is abounding with stories!!!"

But this Dick is less known around the house. At home, Barbara claims, he's most often to be found quietly reading. Usually with two or three books going at a time, along with his daily intake of the



Rob Hoogs

Dick Tryon (that's him second from left) celebrating his 90th with family and friends.

Wall Street Journal. He's always been a big reader, even when he was also a dairy farmer, which is the sort of farming that never has an off-season.

Dick matriculated at the University of Massachusetts on the G.I. Bill following his time in the Navy, majoring in agriculture. After that he moved back to Monterey to join his father in farming. Their milk was great. Cream-top, pasteurized but not homogenized, it filled the fridges of almost everyone in Monterey. Plus, they delivered, running the whole operation on an honor system.

"Nowadays," he once said to me, "people call any old house a farm. They'll put the sign up as if that's what makes a farm." He wasn't saying this bitterly; Dick doesn't seem to do bitterness. It was just an observation. As for Lowland Farm, that was, and still is, the real deal.

Dick got out of dairy farming in 1986 during the federal buyouts. But he's kept with the haying, which he really does like to make while the sun shines. (For a New Englander, he is oddly fond of hot weather.) He's also kept with the Farm Bureau on a local and state level, serving even in leadership for long stints as vice-president and president. He was a member of the board of directors of the Farm Family Insurance and still is a trustee of the Eastern States Exposition, and he still goes on travel weekends with old friends from these organizations. Barbara will tell of how wonderful it is to be in a room full of fellow farmers. There's just something about them: you feel right at home when you're with your people.

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Over a decade ago, Barbara came across an article in the *Boston Globe Magazine*. It was entitled “You’d Know a Yankee Anywhere: Or Would You?” and in it was listed the characteristics of a Yankee: “frugal, resourceful, hardworking, independent, tenacious, rugged, strong willed, inventive, and neighborly.” Barbara clipped this out and saved it because it so accurately described her husband, “all except the inventive part,” she qualifies.

Dick has been just as active a community member on a local level as well. For 45 years he was a cooperator of the Berkshire Bank before it went public, becoming in the process the longest-time one. He was a selectman of Monterey for 11 years. He served as one of the first chairmen of the SBRSD Committee and was one of the founders of Berkshire Grown, and one of the first members of the town Conservation Committee and the Finance Committee. Now he is an associate of Gould Farm.

For fun, he excelled at skiing, covering terrain here in the Berkshires but also in Montana and Europe. He and Barbara loved to square dance, and they’re avid birders as well. He has no ear for music (that’s Barbara’s to attend to; she can *hear* the birds), but he can *see* birds, spotting them long before most people could. On a trip to Africa, he and Barbara introduced to the whole group they traveled with this way of experiencing a foreign place: through the birds there.

On a personal note, I want to say that Dick was one of the first people here to reach out to me. He led me through town, introducing me to the postmaster and the

Monterey News Board of Directors Thanks Two Departing Members

Did you know that your beloved *Monterey News* has a board of directors? As a 501(c)(3), this newspaper is the product not only of our wonderful (mostly volunteer) writers—some who write monthly, and others who write less regularly, and even more who haven’t written anything *yet* (maybe you?)—and of our dedicated and talented editor, Will Marsh, but also of a board of seven to nine regular citizens who have an interest in serving the community of Monterey in this way.

We meet six times a year, as is required by law. During these meetings we review our finances, discuss our circulation numbers and trends, revisit our mission and the question of whether we are fulfilling it, and advise our editor on any matters he might bring to bear. It’s light work, and good work, and we’re looking for new members.

clerks at the General Store. He set up a meeting for me with a town historian, and he has sat, and still does sit, Sunday after Sunday, in the sunny pew in church. Ninety years into this, Dick is resilient—which is one thing I admire most about him. It wasn’t on that list that Barbara clipped from the magazine—resilient. But I think it should have been. And, as a Yankee myself, I hope one day to be as accomplished a one as he is.

—Liz Goodman

This is a bittersweet fact, because it means we’re losing two people who have been crucial to this effort. Mari Enoch has been on the board, and has served as treasurer, for eighteen years. Our town tax collector, and also the mother of three children, a member of the Gould Farm community, and an active participant in local school matters (a graduate of the Monterey School herself), Mari has proven herself a dedicated advisor to the *News*, and we will miss her so much. (Plus, she’s just fun to have at meetings.)

Tim Lovett is another one who has recently resigned from the board. A co-owner and operator of Berkshire Properties Agents, Tim has been on the board for twelve years, and brings with him his business acumen, along with his love of Monterey. But his agency is bustling (the #1 seller in Berkshire County in 2013), so he finds himself too busy to commit to this as he would like. Fun and funny, like Mari, he’ll be missed.

The remaining members of the board (Ann Higgins, president; Steve Snyder, secretary; Steve Pullen, our new treasurer; Dianna Downing; Liz Goodman; Roz Halberstadter; Bonner McAllester) offer our thanks to Mari and Tim, and we ask all readers of the *Monterey News* to join us in this. The *News* would not be what it is without their service.

Looking now to the future, we also ask that each reader think about whether you might be meant to join the board. If you think so, please be in touch with the newspaper at 413-528-4347 or via email at montereynews9@gmail.com.

—Liz Goodman

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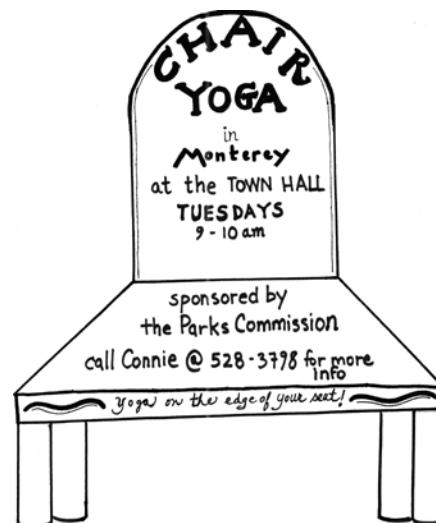
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ANNIE OKERSTROM-LANG
SHEA POTOSKI ROSE BLODGETT**





Mercure Photography

Wendy Jensen receiving MCC Leadership Award from Senator Benjamin Downing

Wendy Jensen Receives Cultural Leadership Award at State House Event

On February 11 Wendy Jensen of the Monterey Cultural Council received the Massachusetts Cultural Council's (MCC) Leadership Circle Award at the Massachusetts State House during *Telling Our Story*, MCC's Local Cultural Council (LCC) Statewide Assembly. The award recognizes individual contributions to community arts and culture.

The Statewide Assembly is an opportunity for LCC volunteers to share stories of how arts and culture are transforming their communities with each other and with their legislators.

The Leadership Circle Awards annually recognize outstanding volunteers of the 329 Local Cultural Councils across the state. These local arts leaders play a crucial role in supporting projects that celebrate diversity, foster collaboration, showcase artistic excellence, and provide learning experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Wendy Jensen is one of two Local Cultural Council volunteers to earn this year's Leadership Circle Awards.

Wendy has been on the Monterey Cultural Council since 2009 and has been chair of the council for two years. She provides excellent leadership of the council and ensures that meetings are

collaborative, productive, and enjoyable. Jensen oversaw the creation of Monterey Makers Studio Tour, which encourages residents to spend the day visiting local artist and artisan studios and workspaces. This successful event is in its fifth year. She has also worked to connect grantees with council members to provide support and encouragement through the grant cycle. Jensen is an award-winning professional basket maker, teaching workshops at museums, craft schools, conventions, and in her studio. Her work can be seen at several juried craft shows and gallery exhibits around the eastern United States.

"Wendy Jensen is a very worthy nominee for the MCC's Leadership Circle award, not just because she is a nationally recognized artist, but because she truly understands the worth of having a strong collection of artists within a small community like Monterey," said Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli. "Her work in Monterey as Chair of the Cultural Council has been immensely beneficial to local artists."

Leadership Circle Awards are nominated by Local Cultural Council chairs and co-chairs and are evaluated by a panel appointed by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The LCC Program is the largest volunteer-run, grassroots arts funding program in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences annually.

Monterey Library Notes

Do you like to use library resources that are online? Have you used the databases and access to eBooks and other materials on the CWMARS website and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners website? There's one more way to access these things. The state does support the Boston Public Library with budget monies and the BPL in turn is open to all residents of the commonwealth, which also includes anyone who owns property in Massachusetts. You can all get a Boston Public Library card if you go to Boston and walk in. But there's an alternative if you like to work online. In a few minutes you can sign up and get a BPL e-card. Visit the collection and see what the BPL can offer you.

To get an e-card you'll need to go to the Boston Public Library website—www.bpl.org. Click on general info, then click on "How do I . . . ?" The next choice is to click on "Use my account," and finally "Get an e-card." There are a few questions to answer, and then you can start using your card. If you ever go to Boston you can walk into the library and convert it to a real card. What are the benefits of an e-card right from the website?

- An account in our online catalog that allows you to rate, review, and share the books, movies, and music that you love
- Electronic Resources (magazine and journal articles from online databases)
- Downloadable eBooks, audio, video, and music
- Digital magazines

It has always been easy to say our tax dollars go east and don't come back, but Massachusetts Libraries have tried to make sure that everyone has access to all our resources. This is one more example of this philosophy.

—Mark Makuc, Library Director



At the Farmer's House

*Tuesday Night
At the Farmer's House
On Gould Farm*

*I hear
you coming,
stomping off the snow
inside the kitchen door.*

*I call: "I'll warm your supper;
why so late
this frigid night? Everything
OK down at the barn?"*

*It's minus three degrees.
I've worked late too
but still
got home an hour ago.*

*I forgot (or did you even say)
you had a meeting
all the way in town?*

*I shuffle in my slippers
from the warmth of fire
and crossword comfort;
turn on the kitchen light.*

*There you stand
on the rug, inside the door,
jacket, boots and hat but no
gloves.*

*And in your chiaroscuro
hands,
red roses.*

— Donna Burkhart

Yo Yo Quilt

*A three-inch circle of cotton print
Its circumference gathered and knotted
Forms a one-and-one-quarter-inch pouch
Attached to four equally charming
But differently patterned sacks
Hundreds of them sewn together just so
With empty squares between them
Form a springy coverlet
Circa 1900 remnants of lived-in
Housedresses blouses shirtwaists skirts
Sunday bests summer day dresses
Dance across the comforter
Eternally youthful and gay
Darling and modest apricots creams and raspberries
Daring and modern reds blacks and greens
Each draws the viewer to unknown scenes
Reveries of the quilter's worlds
Then spins one out
With surprising strength and grace
Back and forth the pouches pull and release
Into contemporary memories and dreams
Tethered still to the revenant's art*

— Elizabeth Silk



Row-Cropping the Wild

Years back my college had a geography department in the Science Building. I signed up for “Man as an Agent of Landscape Change” in my senior year because an old family pal was teaching it. Soon I graduated and he left Antioch, too, but that was the year we met up for awhile, for the first time since our childhood days.

Daniel was a professor of Human Geography and had done his research among the Basques in the Pyrenees between Spain and France. I liked the class, and once when I was over at the family’s house I saw him get out his scythe to mow the lawn. I had swung a scythe in the tall grass in Monterey since I was a kid, but this was the first time I’d ever seen someone go slowly and carefully round and round a suburban lawn, taking 3 level inches off the grass. It was as tidy as a lawn-mower, but quiet. I remember Daniel also took slow careful time with his sharpening stone.

Landscape change, yes, we “men” are a formidable agent. We do not like to leave it alone. We make improvements, by which we mean, ways to make a buck off any “unproductive” ground or air or ocean. I need a buck as much as the next agent, or at least food, fuel, and shelter, and have done my part to change the landscape with scythe, chainsaw, and shovel. I have even made a few bucks at it, and for the last thirty-five years this has involved neighborhood trees, sun, water, and fire.

We built a sugarhouse here, downslope from the maples. We drove north to Rutland, Vermont, and came home with an evaporator and various gadgets that were state of the art at the time. We checked for sugar content using glassware that was right out of chem. lab: a hydrometer for specific gravity, a tall thermometer for boiling point. Some sugar makers moved right along to oil-fired boilers (evaporators) and suction on their tubing to get more sap out of the trees. Then came “reverse osmosis,” a pumped filtering system for taking most of the water out of the sap before ever starting to boil. This gear is expensive. I just read that the current RO (reverse osmosis) machine with touch-screen controls can cost \$150,000. I also read that some folks have their eye on a brave new world of sugaring: acres of little

maple saplings in rows, on level ground, tended by tractors. New equipment has been invented, patents applied for.

Some folks say that row-cropping sugar maples is the look of the future, the way to make our New England landscape truly productive of cash. Laura Sorkin writes, “Aside from mushrooms and game meat, the woods of Vermont hardly yield anything edible” (“Maple Syrup Revolu-



tion: A New Discovery Could Change the Business Forever,” in the quarterly magazine *Modern Farmer*, Jan. 20, 2014). By “edible,” I think she means people will buy it so they can eat it. The “new discovery” is that the sap comes up from the roots,

rather than down from the top of the tree. I am trying to think if this is news. A couple of Vermont scientists propose that we can plant many little saplings in rows. We’ll whack off the top, stick a spile in the center of the lopped-off little tree, hook it to a tubing line that runs along the rows of other little topped trees, and collect a lot of sap. I guess we will use suction, since there will be no downslope.

This article never mentions sugar, which is made by sun shining on green plants, by photosynthesis. As for where the water comes from, it does travel up from the roots, and then down, and then up, and then down, and even crosswise. Sugar made in the leaves and stored in the tree since last summer travels with the water, and we grab some with our drills and our spiles.

The Indians used to gash the trunk with axes and catch the sap in birchbark containers on the ground. This had to be poured into dugout wooden troughs or tubs. The Indians heated rocks and dropped them into the wooden tubs full of sap, driving off steam. These were the gadgets of the day, and the product was not syrup but sugar, which is easier to pack and store. The Indians drove off all the water with their hot rocks. (See *The Maple Sugar Book* by Helen and Scott Nearing [New York: Schocken Books, 1950].

We may decide to clear-cut and level the woods so we can put up rows and rows of one kind of sapling. We’ll drive along

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in tractors sucking up sap. We'll pump it through semipermeable membranes and sell it in attractive containers with pictures of sleighs and horses and wood smoke billowing from the Yankee sugarhouse of yore. We will think of it as something edible that came from the woods, like the big game and mushrooms Laura Sorkin wrote about in her article. When we turn off the tractor at the end of the day and pull off our ear protectors, we might catch the drumming of a sapsucker out on the edge of our sapling farm, where a few old trees still stand long enough to die a little, to harbor insects, to feed a woodpecker.

Maybe we'll keep clambering through the woods on snowshoes, with bit and brace and hammer. Maybe keep burning pine, poplar, and cherry in the old Rutland arch or evaporator. When we're bottled and cleaned up in April, when green pops out everywhere, we might remember the Basques farming in those distant mountains. Like us they are agents of landscape change. Sun, water, scythe, hammer, stone, gravity, and fire are some timeless tools for a life that depends upon plants. And a stone axe and hot rocks will get you sugar from a tree.

—Bonner J. McAllester

March 15 Deadline to Apply for Summer Youth Cultural Enrichment Grants

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation has set March 15 as the deadline for applications to the Simple Gifts Fund, a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. The fund awards grants to young people ages 13–21 for participation in cultural or creative summer programs, such as theater internships, music and art camps, or language immersion programs. Residents of Berkshire, Columbia, north-east Dutchess, and northwest Litchfield counties may apply.

Last year, twenty-one young people in the Berkshire Taconic region received support for summer enrichment programs. Past grants have supported youths attending programs such as a summer drama camp in Maine, summer musical theater workshops at the Barrington Stage Company, Day in the Arts program at Tanglewood, Rock 'n Roll Summer Camp, Litchfield Jazz Camp, the American Youth Circus Organization Festival, and Camp Hemlock, a camp for the disabled.

Applications and guidelines are available online at www.berkshiretaconic.org/SearchGrants.

The Simple Gifts Fund was established in honor of Bill Crofut by his family. Bill was a beloved local folksinger who

Visit a Sugarhouse March 22

Maple syrup making is a fine art, so come learn all about it on Saturday, March 22, from 10:00 a.m. until noon on Hupi Road. Bonner McAllester and Joe Baker of Monterey Maple will show you the wonders, from the tree in the woods to the bottle in the sugarhouse.

This event is sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council. Please call 528-7914 (Susan Johnson, Monterey Cultural Council) so we will know you are coming.

Park along Hupi down by Bonner and Joe's driveway (#33), which is about one quarter of a mile from Route 23 on the east end of Hupi Road. This intersection is roughly two miles east of Monterey town center. (Do not dream of driving in to the sugarhouse! You'll be stuck until the end of mud.)

died in 1999. He had a deep understanding of and empathy for the dreams and aspirations of young people. He wanted to do something that could help them achieve their goals and knew that even small amounts of money could help them purchase an instrument, study dance, or participate in a summer program. He loved to foster those small steps to further great passions.

To donate to the Simply Gifts Fund, please visit www.berkshiretaconic.org/Donate.



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Letter from DC

Communities of Faith

About a year ago, around the time I began my journey at the yoga studio, I unexpectedly started going to church. I felt that I was searching for something, without being able to identify exactly what was missing. I think in retrospect that I was looking to widen my perspective and find a different community that could offer a sense of belonging and, perhaps, spiritual guidance. The All Souls Universal Unitarian Church in the Columbia Heights neighborhood of Northwest Washington, DC, is an inclusive community that celebrates diversity, along with all backgrounds and creeds. I may be a fairly ambivalent agnostic, but I don't feel out of place in the congregation. Each service has a theme; they sing hymns (I'm always off key), there is a sermon, and there is a time for community thoughts and prayers, some in celebration, others in remembrance, and some for those in poor health. It is an open, accepting and progressive community of all souls.

All Souls Church Unitarian, originally known as First Unitarian, was first organized in 1821, and the church found its home in three different DC locations in the following decades. The original tower bell was cast in Boston by Joseph Revere, son of Paul Revere, and served as the unofficial city bell for years signaling public assemblies, fires, and other events. When John Brown was hung, on December 2, 1859, for leading the raid on Harper's Ferry, the bell rang throughout the day, enraging the DC mayor and council members; it was discontinued for public use and became known as the "abolition bell." The church served as a hospital during the Civil War; it installed David Eaton as the first African-American senior minister to serve in a large Unitarian church, and one of the first public birth-control clinics in the city was established there. The church has a rich history, and its social-justice mission takes center stage, which is one of the biggest draws for me. I never imagined I would find a spiritual community where I would feel so comfortable in my own beliefs and values.

I always walk out feeling renewed, and sometimes the sermon content stays with me, that proverbial gold nugget that

demands greater reflection. Last spring, when I was feeling a bit stuck, the reverend's sermon "All Alone, Together" offered an oddly comforting prospect: we are all human, ups and downs are inevitable, and when you are at the depth of loneliness, analogous to an isolated island in the ocean, remember that you are connected to other mountains through the sea floor. You may feel all alone, but your isolation is shared by most of humanity, at varying times. You are not alone; we are all alone, together. That message was strangely comforting. I left still feeling out of sorts, but reassured in the shared experience with my fellow souls.

A second sermon, by a different reverend, took aim at the difficulties of disconnecting. Technology, she argued, allows us very little time to relax and decompress.

She described times in her life when she was overcommitted, ran herself into the ground, and would just crash and withdraw from the world. She likened it to never restarting a computer, instead waiting for it to freeze up before doing a forced reboot. Her message was straightforward: perhaps we would have less crashes in life if we took time each week to do a proper restart. I acknowledge this isn't my strength, but her point made sense and I tried to take it to heart. I have done two things this past year, first incorporating yoga, which really functions as a type of reboot every day. And then on Sundays, I try to step away from the electronics and screens. I don't keep my phone right next to me, and I try to avoid the tablets and computers. It isn't a habit yet, or perhaps I should say that old habits are very hard to break? But, I want to integrate healthy practices into my life, as I may yet need them in the months and years to come to try not to crash from the overloads. Sermons of this nature are

exceedingly practical and applicable to twenty-first century life.

There can be fulfillment when we search openly and without reservation, a practice I find a bit uncomfortable. I often approach situations, and feelings, with predetermined answers or judgments. But, I also feel some inner spiritual restoration that comes with the realization that we can only know so much about ourselves and the world. The ability to reflect, consider, and evolve is oddly energizing. The sermons offer ideas and guidance, and I can feel the subtle changes. I feel the community celebrating the triumphs of the human experience, while openly accepting imperfections. It is the type of spiritual engagement I find genuinely enriching.

I have been on a journey of acceptance this past year, and as 2014 begins I look into the future through the lens of intense gratitude. I appreciate the wisdom of the better souls around me, the rich wisdom they bring to my life. Without ever feeling loyalty toward an established religion, I have found this community of faith that advises and celebrates the imperfections of humanity, setting a high bar for the other areas of my life. There is no judgment, no guilt tripping, just love and understanding.

This year, I have resolved to practice positive affirmations and appreciate the presence of each person that is a part of this life journey. In a world that moves so quickly, where anything can happen, the ability to be open and appreciative is often underestimated or underutilized. I admit to this and many other flaws, but I see suggestion and self-reflection as potent levers for my internal change, a transformation that may be in its infant stage.

—Tarsi Dunlop



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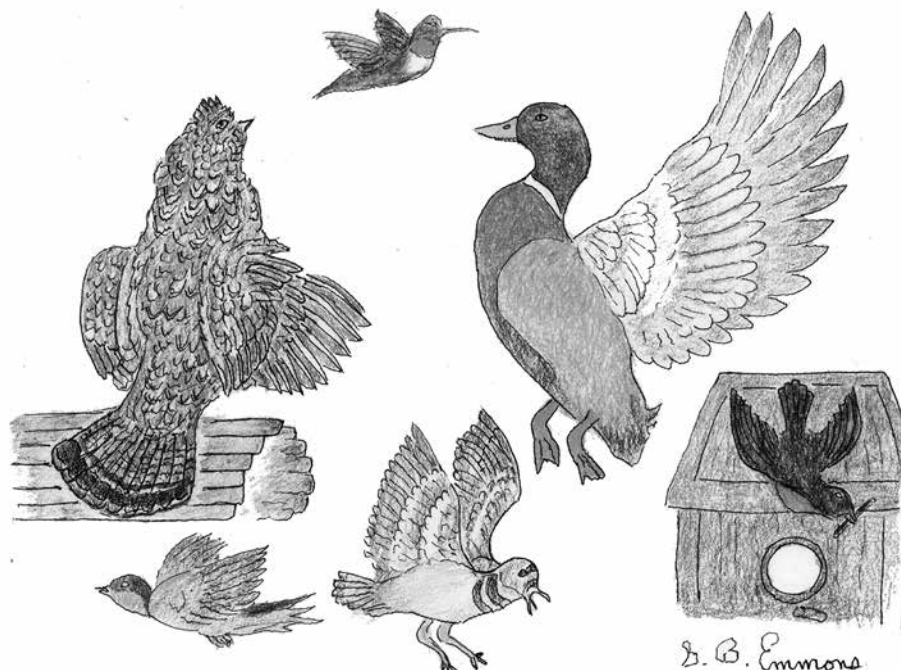
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Wings of Heaven And Earth

A popular amusing aphorism heard today is "If God had meant for man to fly, he would have given him wings." However, from day one when Leonardo da Vinci drew a pair of artificial wings strapped to one's back, humankind has refused to ignore the challenge by staying down. The human adventure in flight continues to this very day, now into outer space after several trips to the Moon and back.

Ancient Mesopotamian and Greek religious art and statues portrayed gods and goddesses as winged human figures, for instance the Greek Winged Victory (Nike), and historic churches are now decorated with figures of heavenly calling—angels, cherubim, and seraphim, as well as the archangels Gabriel and Michael.

If divine intervention from above comes to mind in Sunday church service while reciting Psalm 121, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help," looking skyward may later reveal signs of an early spring. They may arrive with the vernal equinox on wings of migratory waterfowl. When the chilled stillness of a cathedral-dome sky is broken by the shrill clarion of a skein of snow geese, the sound may be as spiritual as the "Hallelujah Chorus" of Handel's immortal *Messiah*.



With this station on Earth in perfect balance of light and darkness, slowly turning the face of the northern hemisphere toward the Sun, the pendulum of planets in motion measures out the heavenly clock movement for days and nights of the coming season. The momentum brings the punctual return of swallows to Capistrano and the miracle of a migratory circle of the arctic tern. It also brings monarch butterflies from a mountain in Mexico back to Monterey.

In another month, the wing beats of migration will turn in purpose to mating rituals followed by domestic wood-box nesting of bluebirds and wood ducks. Gould Farm hedgerows will resound with the territorial drum

beat of the male grouse, and whistling wings will celebrate the spectacular spiral mating dance of the woodcock over singing fields of Lowland Farm. Along Wellman Road a frantic display of feinted broken-wing injury by the killdeer plover will often draw attention away from her nest.

From the dawn of spring when snow geese come coasting down the sky on wings of vernal equinox until the summer solstice when ground-nesting mothers take their fledglings under their wings, the motion of renewal upon Earth is an orchestration of the mind of the universe, and as we worship in church under angel wings, God is in his heaven!

—George B. Emmons

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"Garden Gustation" What's cooking from Monterey Gardens & Farms

March Madness

Okay, the time is now. Spend some snow-day time on the couch, pour the tea, and *dig* into the seed catalogs and get started; you won't even get your hands dirty, yet! Pull out last season's garden layout and plan for the new. Despite this real winter weather, the length of the daylight tells us that spring is not too far off and we should be ready.

I order some of my seeds from Johnny's Selected Seeds of Maine and always find the catalog and particularly their website to be a lot of help for home gardeners. This year Johnny's has a Seed Starting Date Calculator that seems like a really great tool (for free on the site). I have already printed it out. You enter your spring frost-free date, and it calculates, by crop: when to start seeds indoors and the setting-out date (relative to the frost-free date) for the seedlings. I am looking forward to using this tool to help keep track of which veggies to plant when. According to the *Farmer's Almanac*,



our *average* frost-free date is May 10. I plugged May 15 into the calculator. The calculator doesn't cover every vegetable variety but does cover most of the common ones. Even as I look at it now, it's telling me that I could have started my leeks and onions this past week . . . yikes! Let the March madness begin.

Last month I wrote about a gardening friend and shared her recipe. This month, another gardening friend, Susan Johnson, has generously shared a recipe (and a piece of pie!) for parsnip pie that I want to share here. Looking back at last year's calendar, it was about three weeks from now that I was attempting to dig up my first parsnips in the still frozen ground. If you still have some of your own stored away or are looking forward to digging them this spring, here's another way to enjoy the sweet roots. Thanks Susan for sharing!

For Johnny's Seed Starting Date

Calculator go to: www.Johnnyseeds.com. Look for "Interactive Tools" under "Growing Guides."

Spiced Parsnip Pie

(Taken from *Pie* by Ken Haedrich and given to me by Susan Johnson. Underlined ingredients are ours or local.)

Prepare your favorite recipe for a 10" single pie crust. Line pastry-lined pie pan with foil and pie weights and prebake for about 10 minutes in a 400-degree oven. Remove foil and weights and continue to bake another 10 minutes in a 375-degree oven.

Filling

- 4 cups trimmed, peeled, and coarsely chopped parsnips (about 1¾ pounds)
- 1¼ cups light cream or half and half
- 3 large eggs
- 1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar (or sucanat)
- ½ cup granulated sugar (or natural sugar)
- ¼ cup (½ stick unsalted butter, melted)
- 1 Tblsp. fresh lemon juice
- 1 tsp. grated lemon zest
- 1 tsp. grated orange zest
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. ground cloves
- ½ tsp. ground nutmeg
- ½ tsp. ground ginger
- ¾ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- Heavy cream for whipping

Prepare pie crust and line 9½"-10" deep dish pie plate. Place the pan in the freezer for 15 minutes, then partially prebake as described above.

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Put the parsnips in a large saucepan with just enough lightly salted water to cover. Bring to a boil, then continue to boil gently until tender, 12–18 minutes. Test a large chunk with a paring knife to be sure they are done. Drain in a colander and let cool for 10 minutes.

Combine the parsnips and light cream in a food processor and process until smooth. Add the eggs, sugars, butter, lemon juice, and zests, and process until smooth. Add the spices, salt, and vanilla and process again until smooth. Set aside leaving the filling in the processor bowl. Preheat the oven to 350.

Process the filling for several seconds to mix, and then pour into the cooled pie shell, smoothing the top with a spoon. Place on the center oven rack and bake for 30 minutes. Continue to bake until the edges have puffed and started to crack, 20–25 minutes more. When done, the center of the pie will be firmly set.

Transfer the pie to a wire rack and let cool. Serve slightly warm, at room temperature, or slightly chilled. Garnish with whipped cream.

Let me know what's still cooking from your garden, I'd love to share it here.

—Wendy G. Jensen
wendygj@gmail.com

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From the Meeting-house . . . Bring on the Mud

Whether it begins this time with a lion or a lamb, March is the month when it's tempting to say that "the black and white season" is behind us. The month when most of us have had enough of snow piled on tree branches, eaves, walks and roadways.

Even when it's beautiful? Even though it's beautiful. This is one of those years when more than the usual number of us agree: we're ready. The winter that technically ends in a few weeks even has our usual transitional event—Berkshire Mud Season—looking good by comparison.

I'm right there, singing in that chorus; and from someone who lives on a gravel road, that's saying a lot. But then, I usually do welcome Mud Season. Not the inconvenience, or the need to still slog around in the boots I enjoyed so much in November. But it's hard to beat the tiny hint of warmth in the sunshine, the fragrance of the waking, warming earth. And, yes, I know: with that image, I'm leaning far ahead into spring. Into May, while it's still, as I write, a quarter of a year until we can safely plant annuals.

Maybe that's the stretch that really aches: do I trust the promise of spring



Bonsai Cox

even when it's snowed under? Do I trust when the promise comes wrapped in chill rain that freezes to still-bare branches? Do I trust, even before the icy branches become breathtaking in the light of the dawn?

There's the real rub: either way, it's a black and white question with a yes or no answer. One I may be asking myself again and again. Maybe right up through Memorial Day.

—Mary Kate Jordan
ॐ



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Letter to Pete Seeger

Dear, dear Pete,

I've been meaning to write you to convey how profound your influence has been, how you have uplifted our world and so very many of the folks in it. Even though there is no way to comprehend the effect of your life's work, even from one who has gone back with you for so long, I've procrastinated, knowing you get so much praise and acclamation that "one more" would be superfluous. But, on your passing, I just have to finish this letter anyway. It has been percolating inside me for many, many months, and I feel compelled to add my small voice. And perhaps, by posting this letter, I can share with others the effect you have had on my life and, by extension, so many, many others, I remember:

* I first remember you from the sing-alongs and stories at Camp Woodland in the late 1940s—and how you showed us the power, the history, and the joy of music and singing together, an unbridled optimism about humanity and the world we live in and the power of folks working together to make our world a better place. And I remember trudging through the woods with you in 1997 searching for the old stone amphitheater where we used to sing at Sunday meetings.

* When I was running Norman Studer's Memorial you were one of many folk musicians on the program. Even though you were "Pete Seeger," your humility and absorption into the group was wonderful; it was who you are. (I must admit, however, holding you in such high esteem, that being "in charge" of "Pete Seeger" made me uncommonly uncomfortable, even though you were so very gracious.)

* At our Camp Woodland reunion in 1997 you came to join us (at the Simpson Ski Slope, site of our annual Folk Festivals) for a few hours of sharing music and reliving the old days. You had a cold (or maybe it was Toshi, who remained in the car for most of the time, I believe) and had had a concert the night before in Purchase; your voice was pretty much shot. You had this portable-lectern-type affair with a mike and speaker to support your raspy voice. We sang quite a few songs, all of us together, but the most amazing thing about it was that for two, maybe even three, hours with relatively little

singing on your part, you kept us transfixed with your stories, reflections about life, the world, humanity . . . It was amazing. (My brother, Greg, and I coordinated this reunion, and I have much of this on video tape. I hope to have it archived.)

* At our reunion concert just the summer before last, when you arrived just before intermission and I asked you if you wanted to sing and you said, "No, I'll just play with you." But we gave you a voice microphone anyway, and wouldn't you know, the spirit got to you (again!), and we ended up singing some of the oldies with power and enthusiasm, as only you can do. (As a matter of fact, during one of the songs I found you and me singing virtually the same vocal riffs. It was such a clear manifestation of what I had known for years—the influence of your style and musicianship on my performing—that after the song I said, "Who is this guy next to me singing my riffs!") Fortunately we have this concert on videotape.

* As he was writing "Somos El Barco" my friend Lorre Wyatt told me about how amazing you were with your time, helping him and consulting with him on endless phone calls.

* Having lunch around a large, round table (at a Folklore Conference in Washington, DC) with Oscar Brand, Toshi, and Mike and Peggy Seeger, you were still waxing positive about health benefits, going on with enthusiasm about how we should all drink four quarts of milk each day—maybe that helped you live to 94.

* After the complex relationship you had with Eric Levine (the wonderful grandson of Norman Studer), with a fair amount of tension and misunderstanding, when I called you to get a quote for Eric's memorial, your quote was wonderful and generous. Just another manifestation of "Pete." (Which reminds me, when you introduced me at a PMN concert saying "my good friend, Karl Finger," I was honored and touched.)

* In the prelude to one concert you were adamant, even pissed if I remember, that they remove your name as featured above the other performers.

* In a meeting with Mo Hirsch, Bob Marsh, and me in Chicago in the late 50s you broached your concept of a tape loop for teaching guitar and banjo. When Mo

and Bob showed no interest in supporting that, the dampening of your wide-eyed childlike enthusiasm, your palpable disappointment, struck me.

* Talking to you about Yip Harburg's poems—and your support of my music put to two of them (which you asked for but I never got around to sending – erg!).

So, even with our contact so intermittent over the years, I feel a profound sense of your "not being there"; it feels like a large black hole. I know it will pass, because you will always be there, always be "here." (Who among us has never thought when pondering an action, "What would Pete do?")

With gratitude, admiration and affection,

—Karl Finger



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A Pete Seeger Story

In the 1970s Pete was invited to sing in Barcelona, Spain. Francisco Franco's fascist government, the last of the dictatorships that started World War II, was still in power but declining. A prodemocracy movement was gaining strength, and its leaders invited America's best-known freedom singer to Spain. More than a hundred thousand people were in the stadium, where rock bands had played all day. But the crowd had come for Seeger.

As Pete prepared to go on, government officials handed him a list of songs that he was not allowed to sing. Pete studied it mournfully, saying it looked an awful lot like his set list. But they insisted: he must not sing any of those songs.

Pete took the government's list of banned songs and strolled on stage. He held up the paper and said, "I've been told that I'm not allowed to sing these songs." He grinned at the crowd and said, "So I'll just play the chords; maybe you know the words. They didn't say anything about you singing them."

He strummed his banjo to one song after another, and they all sang. A hundred thousand defiant freedom singers breaking the law with Pete Seeger, filling the stadium with words their government did not want them to hear, words they all knew and had sung together, in secret circles, for years. What could the government do? Arrest a hundred thousand singers? It had been beaten by a few banjo chords and the fame of a man whose songs were on the lips of the whole world.

—Karl Finger

Project Native Environmental Film Festival March 29, 30

For the past three years Project Native has hosted a daylong environmental film festival. This year the festival is being expanded to include an evening screening at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington on Saturday, March 29, in addition to the festival on Sunday, March 30, at the Triplex Cinema.

The festival will kick off on Saturday, March 29, at 7 p.m. with a special screening of *Revolution*, an award-winning film by Rob Stewart, director of *Sharkwater*. Startling, beautiful, and provocative, *Revolution* has already won awards at international film festivals. It is not just about the environment—it is a film about hope and inspiration. It is an urgent call to action with an uplifting message that tells us it's possible to alleviate the damage already done and how we can get involved in the fight to save our planet.

"Our goal is to not only show the problems facing our world, but to also inspire action for positive change," says Karen Lyness LeBlanc, Education & Outreach Coordinator for Project Native. Project Native is encouraging middle, high school, and college students in the area to attend and bring their friends. This event is FREE, thanks to support from the Dr. Robert C. and Tina Sohn Foundation. A panel discussion will follow the film.

On Sunday, March 30, Project Native will once again host a full day of environmental films at the Triplex Cinema in Great Barrington. As in years past, the day will

start at 10:00 a.m. with a film for children and families. "We are thrilled to be showing *Flight of the Butterflies* at our Family Program this year," says Karen LeBlanc. "This summer hundreds of children (and adults) learned about native habitats, butterfly lifecycles, and conservation while participating in bug safaris or visiting our native butterfly house. Now with *Flight of the Butterflies* in 3D they can follow a monarch butterfly on its epic migratory adventure."

For the remainder of the day, a variety of films will be shown on a wide range of current environmental topics including salmon farming, GMOs, tar sands, invasive Asian carp, fracking, and industrial hemp. A complete schedule and film synopses are available at www.projectnative.org.

In an effort to reach a wide and diverse audience the films will be shown free of charge. This festival would not be possible without the generous support of the Dr. Robert C. and Tina Sohn Foundation.

To become a sponsor or nonprofit underwriter, contact Karen Lyness LeBlanc, 413-274-3433 or kleblanc@projectnative.org

Project Native is a nonprofit environmental education organization committed to growing native plants, maintaining a native butterfly house and wildlife sanctuary, and promoting stewardship of the local landscape. For more information visit www.projectnative.org.



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A Bit of Monterey News History

In the year 2000, there was a gathering in the church to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Monterey News. A number of folks who had participated in years past were asked to tell stories. From 1981 to 1983, I had written a monthly column on gardening and homesteading. I recently came upon a copy of my speaking notes for that night. Since I make much reference to spring and summer gardening I thought it might make some nice light late-winter reading.

When long-time editor Ellen Pearson asked me to write a monthly column for the *Monterey News*, I had just moved here from an area in northern New York where everyone I knew was either an up-and-coming back-to-the-land homesteader or was a multigenerational old-time farmer.

Every time I got together with anyone, all we talked about was farming, gardening, animals, and “putting food by,” with a smattering of rural crafts and cooking laced in. So when I moved back to the Berkshires to start Rawson Brook Farm, I already had nine years of experience under my belt.

I was 31 years old and when it came to gardening, I had definite opinions about how things should be done and what I thought everyone should be doing. This is a most wonderful but often trying quality of youthful exuberance. It is also a quality adopted by those who are not quite sure of themselves and are in the habit of trying to reassure themselves by hauling others into their boat or by assuming that others are already on board.

As I read over the articles I wrote during the early 80s, they all seemed to have something in common: I seemed to be telling people *what* I thought they should be doing and *how* they should be doing it, as well as *when* they should be doing it.

- I told them when to mulch their strawberries.

- When to let their animals out on pasture and when they shouldn't.

- I told readers what they should do if they were losing interest in their household compost pile: the answer was to get some chickens to eat all those table scraps. I went on to mention that a single chicken produces 150 pounds of fresh moist manure each year; that's twice the weight of the dry food she would have eaten. Now, when I read that, it seems to me that all that manure would only increase the size of the compost pile.

- I told everyone what to do with and how to think about green tomatoes: think of them as a vegetable variety unto themselves and cook them green.

- I made reference to things that I now don't remember ever knowing about or even know how to pronounce . . . like alternaria blight.

- I told people that they should not pull weeds but that they should learn how to hoe. I went on to say that most old-time garden hoes weren't in good enough shape to do the job effectively and that one has to learn how to sharpen a hoe or, better yet, invest in a new scuffle hoe. I told people when to hoe: on a hot sunny day. The truth was that I was a bit of a hoe fanatic at that time (and I still am). Ellen was always entertained by this enthusiasm, and we laughed about it on more than one occasion, but I was always dead serious about the importance of hoeing.

- In an article written one January entitled “Plan That Garden NOW,” my instructions about what to do and when to do it were right there in the title, and I went on to tell how to plan that garden, using very strong dramatic words that I actually find stressful these days; they make me think of the evening news. Words like disaster, eliminate, awful, problems, avoid, don't,

warning, disappointment, debilitating. And this was quite a line: “Careful evaluation of your available gardening time and vegetable consumption will help to eliminate those spring-fever seed buying and planting sprees that often result in later disaster. Right now you still have vague recollections of last year's garden but come

spring you will have forgotten how awful you felt every time you looked over to the corner of the garden where you planted all those lovely herbs and wild flowers that got lost in the weeds.”

And I closed that article with a word of warning about dreaming through seed catalogs. They are designed (I said) to give us a premature case of spring fever and delusions of gardening grandeur. Go ahead and have a good time (I allowed), but review your seed order before you send it off. Try to eliminate most of the whimsical items: a few are fun but too many are debilitating.

Reading back over this today I might concede that it may contain some good sound advice, but I don't think I enjoy the writer's attitude. I think that spring with whimsy is what it's all about.

And in that vein I'll end with this: in the spring of 1982, on the page facing the hoeing article that I had written, there was an article by Bonner, and she quoted a bit of whimsy from Ogden Nash, an author who is treasured by our present-day editor-in-chief and assistant editor as well.

*God in his wisdom made the fly
And then forget to tell us why.*

—Susan Sellew



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Susan Sellew
Jay Amidon

Susan Sellew's Olympic Fisher tracks

Bluebirds, Chipmunks, a Cabbage Moth, and More—February Wildlife Report

In early February the snow was hard to read, deep and light, falling in on deep tracks. Both Susan and John Sellew had a mysterious leaping visitor on New Marlborough Road, with six- to ten-foot leaps and all four feet registering right close together. This pattern is like an otter or a fisher, but way too long a leap. We are calling this an Olympic Fisher.

Back at the end of January, Steve Snyder reported “robins everywhere,”



Jay Amidon's bear tracks (beside his)

as singles and in flocks, also otter tracks loping and sliding down by the river as well as up by the Gould Farm gravel pit. Steve saw big bear tracks crossing the brook behind his place, on the ice, right about this same time. In early January, Jay Amidon saw bear tracks in the woods up the hill behind the Fish Hatchery. He thinks it must be the same one that visited Will and Glynis Marsh's house at the end of December and again in January.

Lauren Gilderdale sent in a handsome photo of a barred owl, which visited her place on Pine Street, north of Route 57 as it runs along Lake Buel. In the Lake Buel neighborhood, Carol Ingher reported her first chipmunk, a very big one, on February 21, on the steps by her house,



Lauren Gilderdale

The Gilderdale's barred owl

and I can tell you we had two of them up and running across the crust on the deep snow on February 25 here on the east end of Hupi Rd.

Jody Soules says her bird-noticing pals have been seeing big flocks of bluebirds a bit south of here, in Sheffield at Howden Farm, also a hermit thrush, a shrike, and a mockingbird on Silver Street in Sheffield. She says the bluebirds have been in Great Barrington during the last week in February, and this is normal, not early for them. I can report one bluebird on Muddy Brook Road, February 23, also more snow buntings where Monterey Road crosses the Tyringham valley, February 25.

In the insect department, on February 18 there was a ladybug indoors on the windowsill of Ed Salsitz and Arrie Setiawati, and a cabbage moth fluttering around our kitchen here on Hupi Road on February 20. We bring up a red cabbage from the cellar every few days, so we must have pushed this moth out of hibernation under the outer cabbage leaves, by warming it up.

Ed and Arrie had a blue jay and a red-bellied woodpecker in a standoff over the suet cage. Ed says, “The blue jay blinked first.”

Keep sending in the wild tales of life as you see it.

—Bonner McAllester

528-9385 or bmca@berkshire.net



SARAH JACKSON MFA, MA JUNGIAN ANALYSIS & PSYCHOTHERAPY

Is your self-judgment interfering with your life?



*“The most terrifying thing is
to accept yourself completely”.*

C.G. Jung

psychotherapy.sarahjacksonmfa.com

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413.528.1135



April 19th Memorial for Linda Beth Ross

A Celebration of the Life of LINDA BETH ROSS, 1959–2013, will be held on Saturday, April 19, at 11 a.m. in the Monterey Meeting House.

For more information contact Edie and Stan Ross, 413-528-4990; photo-lady1@mac.com.

Christian Meditation Group

Meditation has proven physical, emotional, and spiritual benefits and is central to the Christian experience. Meditation, deeply rooted in Christian tradition, is also known as contemplative prayer, the prayer of silence and listening. This is the aim given by the Psalmist: "Be still and know that I am God." Today, there are over eight hundred Christian Meditation groups around the world. The Christian Meditation group of Pittsfield continues to meet every Wednesday afternoon and is welcoming new members.

P.O. Box 9, 01245

Thanks to Our Police, Fire, and Emergency Service People

To the Editor:

I thought today, February 14, would be a good day, to do, finally, what I've been meaning to do for some time.

That is to say THANK YOU, corporately and individually, to our police, fire, and emergency service people for the way in which you have consistently over so many years supported our efforts at Gould Farm and particularly recently. Your kindness, courtesy, common sense, and, above all, sensitivity make such a difference in our being able to consider you as true partners, not just a "port of call" in a crisis.

Your competence, efficiency, and effectiveness is a given; there is no question you can do the job, ever, but, again, to be caring partners in the way you are in situations of human vulnerability and well-being makes all the difference.

Monterey is so fortunate to have you and we at Gould Farm so appreciate being part of a town like Monterey.

—Donna Burkhart,
for all of us at Gould Farm

If you are interested in joining the Wednesday afternoon Pittsfield group or are interested in seeing a Christian Meditation group started in Monterey, please call Val Latona, Monterey, @ 413-528-3512.



Mike Mielke

It was a clean sweep of the Youth Division for the Mielke clan at the recent Ice Fishing Derby at Stockbridge Bowl. Zachary caught the biggest fish, with Jordan (pictured above with his trout) placing second and Hadley third, while proud grandfather Mike looked on (maybe with a touch of envy since he caught nothing).

Call for Artists for Otis Arts Festival, July 26

Artists are encouraged to apply to display at the 2014 Otis Arts Festival, which will be held on Saturday, July 26, 2014, indoors at Farmington River Elementary School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For application, go to www.townofotisma.com/culturalcouncil or to the Otis Town Hall. For further information, call 413-269-4674.

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Monterey

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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

Through March 15: *Pauline Nault: Mere Color Moves*, Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, during library hours.

Every Tuesday: Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9–10 a.m., Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Park Commission.

Every Wednesday: Christian Meditation Group, Pittsfield. To learn more, call Val Latona, 413-528-3512. See p.26.

Thursday, March 6: Republican Committee Meeting, 4 p.m., Church basement.

Friday, March 7:

Music night at Monterey General Store: Robert Oakes and Kate Smith, 8 p.m.

Information session on changes in Massachusetts's health insurance due to ACA, 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Lenox Town Hall. See p. 11.

Saturday, March 8:

2014 Dog Licensing & Rabies Vaccine Clinic, 9 a.m.–noon, Monterey Fire Station. See p. 5.

Monterey Democratic Caucus to nominate candidates for town offices, 10:30 a.m., Monterey Church basement. See p. 5.

Thursday, March 13: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Visiting Nurses Assoc., 2–3 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room.

Saturday, March 15:

Monterey Republican Caucus to nominate candidates for town election, 1 p.m., Church basement.

Lenox Contradance. Live music by The Gaslight Tinkers called by Sarah Van Norstrand; dancing 8 to 11:30. All welcome; all dances walked through. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St, www.lenoxcontradance.org, 413-528-4007.

Deadline to Apply for Simple Gifts Youth Cultural Enrichment Grants. See p. 17.

Monterey News

The Monterey News is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

Wednesday, March 19: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. Ceramic artist Josephine Freedman will speak. All welcome; see p. 5.

Friday, March 21: Music night at Monterey General Store: HuDost, 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 22:

“Vision 2020,” Community conversation to discuss direction of town over next few years, 10 a.m., Town Hall. Everyone welcome. See p. 4.

Opening reception for *Relative Beauty: Susan Terni Taff and Tim Heffernan*, 6–7:30 p.m., Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. See p. 7.

See maple syrup being made at Joe Baker and Bonner McAllester's sugarhouse 10 a.m.–noon, 33 Hupi Road. Sponsored by Monterey Cultural Council. See p. 17.

Monday, March 24: Monterey book group will discuss *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton, 7:30 p.m., Library.

Tuesday, April 1: Deadline for applications for McLaughlin-Wilson. Guidelines and application information at www.berkshiretaconic.org/Search-Scholarships. See p. 11.

The Observer

January 26 – February 25

High temp. (2/22)..... 46°
Low temp. (2/12)..... -9°
Avg. high temp..... 27.6°
Avg. low temp..... 7.7°
Avg. temp..... 17.7°
Total precipitation
(rain and melted snow) 4.59 in.
Snowfall 48.7 in.
Precipitation occurred on 18 days.

Useful Town Phone Numbers

Assessor's Office: 528-1443 x115
(for questions about your assessment or abatements)

Tax Collector's Office: 528-1443 x117
(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
(for marriage licenses, death & birth certificates, census, dog licenses)

Building Department: 528-1443 x118
Police Department (non-emergency): 528-1443 x116

Fire Department (non-emergency): 528-3136

Highway Department: 528-1734
Executive Secretary: 528-1443 x111
(for Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and other misc. questions)

Library: 528-3795

Post Office: 528-4670

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Note extended Tuesday hours!

Monday.....	7–9 p.m.
Tuesday.....	9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Wednesday.....	2–5 p.m.
Thursday.....	4–6 p.m.
Friday.....	4–8 p.m.
Saturday..	9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
.....	7–9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

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*Contributions from local and guest artists this month:
Maureen Banner, 6, 9, 10, 14, 18, 22, 24; George Emmons, 19;
Bonner McAllester, 16; Rachel Arnow, 15.*

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